Pakistan's Superior Nuclear Capability

4410. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pakistan making ahead of India in nuke capability" appearing in the 'Newstime' dated 26th March, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to have an inquiry into the causes of Pakistan's superior nuclear capability since 1998 and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to address the problems which are hindering India's nuclear advancement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) It is assessed that efforts by Pakistan to enhance its nuclear capabilities continue. Government remain fulty committed to taking ail necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security, with a credible minimum nuclear deterrent based on realistic assessment of the country's security environment.

Requirement of Ration Cards

4411. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:
SHRI R. S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision in respect of those ration card holders who do not require rationed item from PDS but holding the ration cards only as a proof of residence which is required for various verification purposes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?